procedure for obtaining mining lease for coal mining is governed by the provisions contained in the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, read with the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. These provisions apply equally to the private sector and the public sector.

(b) and (c) So far 19 Indian parties only, including both private companies and public sector undertaking/ organisations (other than Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. and the State Government Undertakings) have been identified.

The conditions governing offer of coal blocks to various parties for captive consumption, interalia, include:—

(a) The parties have to bear full cost of exploration in the blocks offered to them respectively.

(b) the parties have to obtain the approval of the Central Government in their mining plans under the mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and will be subject to the inspection and enforcement of the Coal Mines (Conservation & Development) Act, 1974 and enforcement of safety regulations by DGMS and the other laws.

(c) That the Coal produced by them will be utilised only for their own consumption.

Privatisation of coal mines

1501. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move by Government to privatise coal mines;

(b) if so, whether the rules and regulations for the tender bids have been finalised; and

(c) if so, whether it allows 100% equity for foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Government have, subject to legislative changes, decided to offer new coal blocks to the Indian Companies including public sector companies on the basis of competitive bidding.

(b) The rules and regulations for such bidding are under consideration in consultation with Ministries of Mines and Law.

(c) Foreign companies will not be allowed to participate in the competitive bidding.

Development of coal sector

1502. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a substantial investment is called for in coal sector to meet the accelerated demand of coal by industrial and power sector;

(b) if so, the actual investment made during the last five years and details of steps taken/proposed to ensure adequate flow of investment in coal sector;

(c) whether Government are considering changes/amendment in Coal Mines Nationalisation Act and the Mines and Minerals Regulations Act;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the package of incentives finalised to encourage private investment in coal sector and number of blocks identified for fresh private investment, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.